

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2053
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 16595

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, UNGA, GW, GE
SUBJECT: FISCHER-GENSCHER BILATERAL MEETING AT UN

REFS: (A) SECTO 10027; (B) BONN 15818;
(C) BONN 15823

SUMMARY: AT OCTOBER 4 BONN GROUP MEETING, AFTER US REP
REPORTED BRIEFLY ON THE MEETING AT THE UN BETWEEN THE
SECRETARY AND GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER, FRG REP
(VON BRAUNMUEHL) BRIEFED THE ALLIES IN DETAIL ON THE
BILATERAL MEETING HELD BETWEEN FRG FOREIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER AND GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER SEPTEMBER 30 ON
THE MARGINS OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THERE
WAS NO MOVEMENT ON MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE IN BILATERAL
RELATIONS WHICH ARE SOURCES OF CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE
TWO SIDES, BUT GENSCHER AND FISCHER, ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY
THEIR UN AMBASSADORS, CONDUCTED THE THIRTY-FIVE MINUTE
CONVERSATION IN AN OPEN AND AT TIMES EVEN RELAXED
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ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OCTOBER 4 BONN GROUP MEETING, US REP REPORTED ON
THE MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND FISCHER, DRAWING
FROM PARAGRAPH 2 OF REF A.
3. VON BRAUNMUEHL THEN REPORTED ON THE GENSCHER/FISCHER

MEETING. HE SAID THAT FISCHER HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN TRYING TO ACT RELAXED, IN ORDER TO ALLOW A DISCUSSION FREE OF POLEMICS. THAT MORNING FISCHER AND THE FRG UN AMBASSADOR (VON WECHMAR) HAD MET AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION, WHERE THEY AGREED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S SUGGESTION SHOULD BE FOLLOWED, I.E., DISCUSSION SHOULD BE HELD IN A SMALL CIRCLE WITHOUT NOTETAKERS OR PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS. AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE DISCUSSION, FISCHER REFERRED TO THIS AGREEMENT AND COMMENTED THAT IT WAS MORE USEFUL TO MEET PRIVATELY IN THE SMALLEST POSSIBLE CIRCLE RATHER THAN TO HAVE A "CINEMA PRODUCTION" WITH MANY EXTRAS AS HAD OCCURRED THE YEAR BEFORE WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA HAD BEEN PRESENT TEMPORARILY.

3. IT WAS EVIDENT FROM THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION THAT FISCHER WAS TRYING TO BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES IN THE NEAR FUTURE. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT THE FRG BELIEVES THAT FISCHER'S BEHAVIOR IS PARTLY EXPLAINED BY THE GDR DESIRE TO HAVE SOME RESULTS TO SHOW BEFORE BREZHNEV VISITS BONN (REF B). FISCHER ASKED, FOR EXAMPLE, WHETHER THE CANCELLATION OF THE WISCHNEWSKI-KOHL MEETING LAST WEEK ON SHORT NOTICE HAD BEEN THE RESULT OF CONTROVERSIES BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND THE GDR. GENSCHER DENIED THIS BY NOTING THAT WISCHNEWSKI HAD BEEN ON SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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NECESSARY TRIPS ABROAD (REF C). FISCHER LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE GDR LEADERSHIP NOT ONLY HOPED FOR A QUICK RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS, BUT ALSO FOR CONCRETE RESULTS ATTAINED BY FULLY UTILIZING THE POSSIBILITIES INHERENT IN THE BASIC TREATY.

4. FISCHER INTRODUCED HIS REMARKS BY DECLARING THAT THERE WERE THREE QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE ON WHICH EAST BERLIN WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION AND ON WHICH IT EXPECTED SOME COOPERATIVENESS ON THE PART OF BONN: NON-INTERFERENCE, THE BORDER QUESTION, AND THE PROBLEM OF CITIZENSHIP. FISCHER RETURNED TO THESE THREE POINTS SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION. EACH TIME GENSCHER RESPONDED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN THESE THREE AREAS HAD NOT CHANGED SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF THE FRG-GDR BASIC TREATY. GENSCHER SAID THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TAKE NOTE OF THEIR OPPOSING VIEWS ON MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE AND TO MAKE AN ENERGETIC ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT IN AREAS WHICH WERE STILL OPEN, I.E., THOSE WHICH WERE EITHER ADDRESSED IN THE BASIC TREATY OR WITH WHICH THE BASIC TREATY HAD NOT DEALT.

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5. VON BRAUNMUEHL REPORTED THAT GENSCHER HAD DESCRIBED THE PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES BY COMPARING IT TO A HALF-FULL AND A HALF-EMPTY GLASS. IN PRINCIPLE, GENSCHER SAID HE COULD AGREE WITH FISCHER'S OPINION THAT FRG-GDR RELATIONS HAD DEVELOPED SATISFACTORILY, AND THUS THE EXAMPLE OF THE HALF-FULL GLASS WOULD BE THE MORE APPROPRIATE PERSPECTIVE. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, MUCH WHICH STILL HAD TO BE DONE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR TWO STATES. FISCHER OBJECTED THAT THE GDR WANTED RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE FRG OF SUCH A NATURE AS IT INTENDED TO DEVELOP WITH GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE. GENSCHER CONTRADICTED THIS BY STATING THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES WAS SUBJECT TO OTHER LAWS THAN THOSE WHICH GOVERNED RELATIONS WITH THIRD STATES.

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6. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, GENSCHER RECALLED THE MEETING BETWEEN FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND GDR LEADER HONECKER IN HELSINKI AND COMMENTED THAT THE TWO HAD LEFT THE FINNISH CAPITAL WITH THE FEELING THAT EACH COULD DEPEND UPON THE WORD OF THE OTHER. FISCHER AGREED COMPLETELY.

7. IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, FISCHER HAD NOTED THAT THERE WERE HARDLY ANY ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HOW THE FRG AND THE GDR PERCEIVED QUESTIONS CONCERNING CSCE, DISARMAMENT AND THE PRINCIPLE OF DETENTE. ALLUDING TO GENSCHER'S REMARKS ON THE GERMAN QUESTION AND BERLIN IN HIS ADDRESS BEFORE THE 32ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FISCHER COMMENTED THAT IT WAS NOT VERY USEFUL TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC ARGUMENT BEFORE THIRD PARTIES OVER THEIR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. FISCHER SAID HE WOULD BE FORCED TO RESPOND IN SUCH CASES. GENSCHER COUNTERED THIS BY NOTING THAT IT WAS ALSO THE CASE THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN THE GDR COULD ONLY HAVE LED TO STIRRING UP A PUBLIC DISCUSSION ABOUT SUCH PROBLEMS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT FISCHER KNEW THAT GENSCHER WAS REFERRING TO THE QUESTION OF CITIZENSHIP).

8. GENSCHER AND FISCHER AGREED TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THEIR EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS IN THE SAME OR IN A SIMILAR SMALL CIRCLE. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING. AFTER HESITATING A MOMENT, FISCHER AGREED TO ATTEND GENSCHER'S RECEPTION LATER IN THE EVENING, IF ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME. GENSCHER MENTIONED THAT FISCHER'S APPEARANCE THERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE CONFIDENTIAL

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CORRECTLY JUDGED ("RICHTIG GEWERTET) BY THE GERMAN PUBLIC.

9. GENSCHER INSTRUCTED THE FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN TO TELL THE PRESS NO MORE THAN THAT AN EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ABOUT QUESTIONS OF BILATERAL INTEREST HAD TAKEN PLACE IN A BUSINESS-LIKE ATMOSPHERE.

10. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT FRG AMBASSADOR VON WECHMAR FELT THAT FISCHER HAD OBVIOUSLY PREPARED HIMSELF QUITE WELL FOR THE CONVERSATION AND THAT FISCHER HAD USED ALL THE CHARM WHICH HE COULD MUSTER TO CREATE

A RELAXED, ALMOST FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE FOR THE CONVERSATION. FISCHER HAD OBVIOUSLY AVOIDED BEING HARSH OR REBUKING THE FRG. WHEN FISCHER MENTIONED THEIR CONVERSATION OF THE YEAR BEFORE, HOWEVER, GENSCHER FELT IT NECESSARY TO POINT OUT TO FISCHER THAT A RELAXED CONVERSATION, COMING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SHOOTINGS OF REFUGEES ON THE BORDER, WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONCEIVABLE. GENSCHER ADDED THAT HE HOPED THAT SUCH INCIDENTS WOULD NOT BE REPEATED. FISCHER REPLIED THAT NOTHING ABOUT THE CONTROL SYSTEM ON THE GDR BORDER WOULD BE CHANGED.

11. AT A FINNISH LUNCHEON FOLLOWING THE FISCHER-GENSCHER BILATERAL, VON WECHMAR MET THE CHARGE OF THE GDR MISSION TO THE UN, MINISTER ZACHMANN, WHO REPORTED TO HIM THAT FISCHER HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH THE COURSE AND RESULTS OF THE CONVERSATION. ZACHMANN SAID FISCHER HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FRG-GDR DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTINUE IN THIS SPIRIT NOT ONLY IN BONN BETWEEN WISCHNEWSKI AND KOHL, BUT ALSO BETWEEN GENSCHER AND HIMSELF.
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